

February 3

Ecclesiasticus 34:4

**“Clean, Unclean,
True, False”**



**Of an unclean thing,
what can be
cleansed? and from
that thing which is
false, what truth
can come?**

**The questions
are asked:**

Can you really get
something clean from
something that is not
clean?

Can truth ever come from
something which is false?

It could be argued that sometimes ultimate good may come from something that initially appeared to be bad. Joseph said of the hateful actions of his older brothers in Genesis 50:20):

But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

Even so, the author of this verse stresses the matter of clear boundaries between **cleanness and truth vs. uncleanness and falsehood** in much the same way as is found throughout the Old Testament.

Take foods, as an illustration. Leviticus provides a list of clean animals and a list of

unclean animals along with a way to determine which is which (where specific animals are not listed). And while some use Paul's vision of the unclean beasts descending from heaven to justify eating unclean creatures, nowhere in Scripture is pork, for example, ever called "clean". Whatever was called unclean, in Scripture, remained

unclean and no THING
that was called unclean
was ever called clean.
That's the concept of this
writing. The passage is
saying some things are
inherently clean and true
while others are
thoroughly unclean
and false and there
is no mixing.

In Paul's trance (Acts
10:10-16), God showed
images of various

animals and some were “unclean”. The thought of eating that was so repulsive to the orthodox Jewish Paul, that he had to take notice. God stressed the point that whomever God, Himself, cleans is clean.

Paul needed to understand that Gentiles, which Paul had thought of as only and always “unclean”, could

be cleansed by God.

That, however,
never meant
“unclean” animals were
suddenly God-approved,
clean, or edible.

Notice this passage uses
the word “thing” twice.

Some **things** (not
people) were set to be
unclean. Some **things**
can be painted,
perfumed and pressed,
wrapped in silk, satin,

and lace, and they will
still be unclean and
nothing clean can come
from them.

That's the
message of the
verse as found
in Ecclesiasticus
of the
1611 KJV.

By the way,
adults may choose
to eat whatever
they can financially
and morally
afford and
desire to eat.

The levitical
dietary laws
were truths
for
truth-seekers.

Even so, in just
living, humans are
frequently faced
with the matter
of determining,
choosing, and
understanding
when there is a
vital difference
between clean,
unclean,
true and false.